

Housing inquiry

Introduction

1. At this meeting the Committee will hold its first session in its next phase of its housing inquiry. At this meeting the Committee will hear from two panels. On the first panel the Committee will hear from:
 - Professor Ken Gibb, Director, UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CACHE) University of Glasgow
 - Professor Christian Hilber, Professor of Economic Geography; Deputy Head of Department (Teaching), Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics.
 - Chris Birt, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
2. On the second panel the Committee will hear from:
 - Donna Bogdanovic, Head of Housing Strategy and Development, Scottish Borders Council;
 - Stephen Llewellyn, Chief Housing Officer, North Lanarkshire Council;
 - Derek McGowan, Service Director for Housing and Homelessness, City of Edinburgh Council;
 - Edward Thomas, Head of Housing and Property Services, Moray Council;
 - Blair Millar, Head of Housing and Communities, East Ayrshire Council
3. The session will be informed by the following written evidence:
 - [Scottish Borders Council](#)
 - [North Lanarkshire Council](#)
 - [City of Edinburgh Council](#)
 - [Moray Council](#)
 - [East Ayrshire Council](#)
4. The purpose of this paper is to provide background information to inform this session.

Background

5. The Committee has considered housing issues throughout the session. Most recently the Committee took evidence from a range of

stakeholders on the Scottish Government's Housing to 2040 strategy at its meetings of 20 February and 27 February and on rural housing issues on 30 April. In addition, the Committee wrote to the Scottish Government on 4 June following up on issues arising in the sessions.

6. In [June the Scottish Parliament agreed to a Scottish Labour motion \(S6M-13197\)](#) supporting the declaration of a national housing emergency.
7. [As part of its work programme discussion before summer recess](#) the Committee agreed to issue a call for views to shape the next steps in its housing inquiry work. In particular, the Committee asked about voids, acquisitions, and responses to the housing emergency.
8. Having reflected on the responses received, the Committee agreed to a short inquiry focussed on the following questions:
 - How effective are the actions of local authorities and the Scottish Government in responding to the immediate housing emergency including homelessness?
 - How can social landlords make best use of existing stock to respond to the housing emergency?
 - What do we need the housing system to look like in Scotland to prevent future housing emergencies and homelessness?
 - What should the role be of the social and private rented sector in providing affordable housing choices in Scotland?
 - How can we create a sustainable and affordable housing market?
 - How effective are local authorities' and the Scottish Government's current actions in working towards achieving the housing system we need in the longer term?
9. As noted earlier this is the first of the Committee's sessions and on 12 November the Committee will take evidence from the following:
 - Professor Duncan Maclennan
 - Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers
 - Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
 - Shelter
 - Living Rent
 - Chartered Institute of Housing
 - Homes for Scotland
10. The Committee will reflect on its next steps after the session on 12 November.

**Committee clerks,
November 2024**